

**California Service Corps  
2005 Commissioner Orientation  
Beverly Hills Civic Center  
City Hall  
Beverly Hills, CA**

**September 27, 2005**

***AGENDA***

**Tuesday, September 27, 2005**

**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.**

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**California Service Corps (CSC)**

Marie

- Mission
- Goals/Role
- Positioning within State Government
- Extra curricular activities

**Fiscal Overview**

Mimi

**Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS)**

David

**AmeriCorps**

Kaira

- AmeriCorps Overview
- Portfolio Overview
- Grant-making

**Citizen Corps**

David

- Citizen Corps Overview
- Funding/partners

**Support to the Larger Service and Volunteerism Field**

David

**Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities**

David  
Judith

**Administrative**

Judith

- FPPC Overview
- Travel Reimbursements

## California Service Corps' Mission

The California Service Corps seeks to provide meaningful service and volunteerism opportunities to the people of California who want to strengthen and support their state through service. When you bear responsibility for California and serve the Golden State, you are a member of the California Service Corps.

## California Service Corps' Goals

The goals of the California Service Corps are three-fold:

- To encourage more Californians to serve
- To provide opportunities to anyone who wants to serve
- To recognize Californians for their service and volunteerism

## Role of the California Service Corps

The CSC is the state office charged with promoting service and volunteerism in California. It is the official state commission for the Corporation for National and Community Service. The CSC is responsible for recruiting and mobilizing residents for volunteer service by identifying service opportunities throughout the state. It is also the role of the CSC to partner with other public agencies at the state, county and local levels and the private and not-for-profit sectors to leverage greater resources that create more opportunities for service and volunteerism.

## Corporation for National and Community Service/ CSC History

On September 21, 1993 President Clinton signed the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993 (PL 103-82). This law merged two federal agencies, ACTION and the Commission on National and Community Service, creating the new Corporation for National Service (CNS). The Act also established **AmeriCorps**, a service program for Americans ages seventeen years and older.

The Act required the governor of each state to create and appoint a commission through which the AmeriCorps program would be administered. In California, in 1994, Governor Pete Wilson first created the California State Commission known as the Commission on Improving Life Through Service through Executive Order W-77-94. The organization was renamed by Governor Gray Davis as the Governor's Office On Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) in 2001. In August, 2004, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger renamed the organization the California Service Corps through Executive Order S-14-04.

First Lady Maria Shriver serves as the Honorary Chairperson of the California Service Corps.

The Act brought many of the federal government's service programs under one office for the first time. The programs supported by the Corporation vary in many ways, including the kind of work performed, the organizations involved, and the individuals participating. There are three basic sets of Corporation initiatives, generally involving three distinct age groups:

- **AmeriCorps** has included more than 400,000 Americans ages seventeen years and older — getting things done, encouraging responsibility, and offering education awards

in return for service. Programs in the AmeriCorps National Service Network are operated by local, state, and national organizations.

- **Learn and Serve America, K-12 and Higher Education** programs engage school- and college-age youth in providing service and developing civic responsibility through service-learning.
- **National Senior Service Corps** (including the Foster Grandparent, Senior Companion, and Retired Senior Volunteer programs) engages older Americans in serving their communities. Through these programs, seniors share the experience and expertise of a lifetime with other Americans.

### California Service Corps' Programs

Californians are proud to bear responsibility for our state and to actively work to ensure that California's natural beauty, educational opportunities, and strong communities can be enjoyed by future generations.

A growing number of Californians of all ages are serving California at a variety of organizations whose missions they support—from non-profit organizations and schools to places of worship to agencies dedicated to public safety or land management. Together, we make a meaningful contribution to our communities.

However, service projects and programs don't just happen spontaneously. Well-planned and effective service and volunteer opportunities require resources – people to identify, establish and manage the volunteers and the volunteer activities. The California Service Corps provides a portion of these resources through federal and state grants for three specific service programs: AmeriCorps, Citizen Corps, and the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning.

### AmeriCorps

Known as the domestic Peace Corps, AmeriCorps provides thousands of Americans of all ages and backgrounds with intensive full- and part-time opportunities to serve their communities and build the capacity of grassroots organizations to meet local environmental, educational, public safety, or other human needs. AmeriCorps joins a long tradition of programs that encourage and award service – programs like the Civilian Conservation Corps, the Montgomery GI Bill, and the Peace Corps. In return for their service, AmeriCorps participants, known as members, receive a modest living allowance and an education award that can be used towards existing college loans or to pay continuing education costs.

Partnerships that receive AmeriCorps grants recruit, select, and train their own AmeriCorps members, design and operate their local programs, and are responsible for providing funds and other resources to match the federal funds they receive through their AmeriCorps grant. AmeriCorps grants provide funding for budget items such as program staff, living allowances for members, health insurance for full-time members, equipment, supplies and other associated program expenses. Eligible applicants include entities such as community-based organizations (secular and faith-based), local and state government agencies, K-12 schools, school districts, colleges and universities. For the 2005-06 program year, the California Service Corps supports 60 AmeriCorps programs with more than \$32 million in program funding.

## **Citizen Corps**

In January 2002, following the devastating events of September, 11, 2001, President George W. Bush launched USA Freedom Corps, to capture the spirit of service that has emerged throughout our communities following the terrorist attacks.

Citizen Corps, a vital component of USA Freedom Corps, is coordinated nationally by the Department of Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) also works with the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), to promote volunteer service activities which support community safety and homeland security.

The California State Citizen Corps program is administered by the California Service Corps. The mission of Citizen Corps is to harness the power of every individual through education, training, and volunteer service to make communities safer, stronger, and better prepared to respond to the threats of terrorism, crime, public health issues, and disasters of all kinds. The Citizen Corps mission is accomplished through a national network of state, local, and tribal Citizen Corps Councils. These Councils build on community strengths to implement the Citizen Corps programs and will carry out a local strategy to have every American participate.

These programs include:

Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) which consists of volunteers who educate communities on being prepared in case of a disaster, and are trained for basic disaster response. The California State Citizen Corps program currently has 147 CERT teams in California and each participant attends a 20 hour training course.

Medical Reserve Corps (MRC), a program in which doctors and others in the health field can volunteer by offering their expertise to help others in times of need.

Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS), is a program that helps to strengthen the capacity of law enforcement agencies.

Neighborhood Watch, a program that has been in existence for over 30 years, engages citizens to help protect our local communities. Community residents are actively involved in patrolling their local neighborhoods to report any suspicious activity to law enforcement agencies, which keeps communities safer and more secure.

Fire Corps, the newest addition to the Citizen Corps programs, is a group of volunteers helping the fire service from behind the lines. Volunteers assist fire departments with a variety of activities including children's programs, fire safety outreach, and logistical support. In California, Fire Corps will have its official program launch on September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## **Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning**

Though program funding is currently suspended through July 1, 2006, the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning is an annual state holiday created to honor the life and work of labor leader Cesar E. Chavez.

In addition to the state holiday, the landmark legislation, Senate Bill 984, also charged the California Service Corps (then known as GO SERV, the Governor's Office on Service and

Volunteerism) with implementing the Cesar Chavez Day of Service and Learning school component of the holiday.

The California Service Corps has worked with schools, colleges, universities, labor unions, churches, civic groups, libraries, community centers and nonprofit organizations to engage hundreds of thousands of K-12 students in service activities across California that honor the life and work of Cesar E. Chavez. Projects have included creating community gardens, initiating neighborhood beautification projects, creating after-school service clubs, and gleaning vegetables and fruit from fields for food banks and homeless shelters.

### **Commissioner Roles and Responsibilities**

- Approve grantmaking policies and procedures and funding proposals submitted to the Corporation for National and Community Service.
- Advise and participate in the work of the Commission, i.e., policy, communications, program and special initiatives, by attending meetings, and participating on committees, working groups and task forces.
- Reach out to specific constituencies, i.e., government, nonprofits, business, labor, communities of faith, and seek their participation in and support of Commission activities and programs.
- Coordinate with other state agencies and volunteer service programs to ensure a comprehensive and integrated service system.
- Promote community service throughout the state by representing the Commission at service related events and venues.
- Support Commission funded programs by participating in site visits, speaking at launch and graduation activities.